

Purified to Love

The supreme expression of my Christlikeness is not merely my standards of separation, a zeal to win souls, a compulsion to search and be right in Scripture and doctrine of Scripture, but I _____...and particularly love of f_____ Christians.

When Were Believers E_____ to Love?

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth

Seeing ye have purified: Perfect active participle of *hagnizo*; this tense denotes a state that began in the p_____ and is still the case

Our s_____: **purified**

Kistemaker: Peter writes that the believers have cleansed themselves morally. The readers understood the verb *purify* in terms of moral purity. They themselves have been and are personally involved in purifying themselves (see James 4:8; 1 John 3:3).

Moral Purity: Gill: *The apostle passes to another exhortation, namely, to brotherly love; the ground of which he makes to be, the purification of their souls; and which supposes that they had been i_____; and indeed, their whole persons, souls and bodies, were so by nature; it is internal purity, purity of the heart, that is here particularly respected; though not to the e_____ of outward purity, for where there is the former, there will be the latter;*

Purified souls are c_____ souls

So, how does the word of God, the Law of God convert the soul? Note the sequence in Psalm 19:

1. "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul." The Law reveals the holy n_____ of God, which is in direct contrast to the sinful nature.
2. "The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." Testimonies are the s_____ of God's dealings with individuals and His nation. They reveal His ways, which often involve the birth, death, and fulfillment of a vision.
3. "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart." Statutes are Biblical principles applied to specific s_____. The heart affirms their wisdom.
4. "The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." As we read God's Word, the Holy Spirit reveals to us truths that we would not otherwise understand and brings us to c_____ that we would not reach using our own reasoning.
5. "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever." When we are aware that God is watching and e_____ every one of our words, thoughts, and actions, we begin to understand wisdom, which is an essential tool for every converted soul.
6. "The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." The formal d_____ of God are just and right because they are expressions of His holy nature.

Until the soul is converted, we will not understand the ways of God and will often be f_____ by things that happen.

Souls: the word *psuche* is translated in the NT as one's mind, h_____ and life; many scholars say the soul is our mind, will and e_____; one's 'whole life', or 'life direction'.

The means: **obeying the truth** and **through the Spirit**_____. How do believers attain p_____? Peter explains, "*By obeying the truth.*" Peter implies that the readers have accepted and obeyed the g_____.

The result: **unfeigned [sincere] love unto unfeigned love of the brethren.**

Unfeigned: Not f_____ or feigned; not counterfeit; not hypocritical; real; sincere; as unfeigned p_____ to God; unfeigned love to man.

When we *obey the Word of God*, we express our love not only to God but also to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

love of the brethren: Philadelphia, brotherly love, brotherly k_____.

This love of the brethren (philadelphia) is to be sincere (anupokriton, "unhypocritical").

Knowing the human tendency to hypocrisy, Paul admonished the Romans, "Let love be without dissimulation [h_____]" (Rom. 12:9).

Sincere love is the s_____ for believers_____ **Who Are Believers to Love?**

The object of sincere love: _____

Some commentators believe in the New Testament that the words *neighbor* and *brother* have equal standing in respect to the command to love one's fellow man. Nevertheless, in the context of the New Testament epistles the word *brother* has a spiritual meaning; it refers to *brothers and sisters in Christ*.⁶⁷

The command: **love one another**

This love is significant as it is not the same term *Philadelphia*, but *agapao*. It means 1) of persons 1a) to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly 2) of things 2a) to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing

The emphasis falls on the main verb: "Love one another with a pure heart fervently..."

Peter precludes the possibility that members of the Christian community will have only a /_____ for one another without *deeply loving each other from the heart*.

How Are Believers to Love?

Peter qualifies the command to love with two adverbial expressions: "with a pure heart" and "fervently".

First notice, the *i* _____ of that love: **With a pure heart:** pure = clean, clear, pure; free from c_____ desires;

Secondly, notice the *i* _____ of that love: **Fervently** (ektenōs) is a physiological term meaning to stretch to the furthest limit of a muscle's capacity. Symbolically, the word means to go all out, to reach the furthest extent of something

⁶⁷ See Rom. 12:10; I Thess. 4:9–10; Heb. 13:1; I Peter 1:22; II Peter 1:7. Consult Leonhard Goppelt, *Der Erste Petrusbrief*, Kritisch-Exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament, ed. Ferdinand Hahn, 8th ed. (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1978), vol. 12/1, p. 130.

through the Spirit Peter told his readers that this love is an attitude compelled from within, from the heart: *Further, this attitude is a fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit.* Paul told the Galatians that if they lived by that Spirit, they would see His f_____ in their lives

Why Should Believers L_____?

Being [because we have been] b_____ a_____

Why should we love one another? Says Peter, "Being born again". Note that in the process of rebirth, the believers are passive. That is, God brings them through spiritual birth into this world. Once they are born again, the believers are active in the process of purifying themselves and loving/caring for their brothers and sisters in the family of God (v. 22).

Conclusion:

It is hard to love some people...they can be rude, proud, impolite, insensitive and unattached.

Nevertheless, we can because we have been e_____ to love...we have been c_____ to love...and we have been born into God's family, therefore loving those brothers and sisters in Christ is i_____ to those who are born from above.